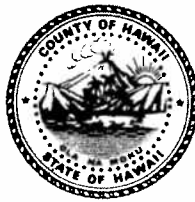


**PETE HOFFMANN**  
**Councilmember**  
District 9 – North & South Kohala



Phone: (808) 887-2043 (Kamuela)  
(808) 961-8273 (Hilo)  
Fax: (808) 887-2072  
Email: phoffmann@co.hawaii.hi.us

*Hawai'i County Council*  
*County of Hawai'i*

*Holomua Center*  
*64-1067 Māmalahoa Highway, Suite C-5*  
*Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743*

November 24, 2009

Legacy Land Commission  
Attn: Molly Schmidt, Coordinator  
Legacy Land Conservation Program  
Department of Land & Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Pāo'o Project**

Dear Legacy Land Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the County of Hawai'i's application (assisted by The Trust for Public Land) to the Legacy Land Commission for \$945,000.

The Big Island community enthusiastically endorses the protection of this unique 11-acre shoreline property. Both the County's General Plan and the North Kohala Community Development Plan call for the safeguarding of the undeveloped Kohala coastline north of Kawaihae. Protection of this property is also a high priority (#2) for the County's Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resource Preservation Commission. This property would connect several miles of coastline under the control of the State, the County, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and also connect several miles of the Ala Kahakai National Historical Trail.

Purchase of this property will also protect important cultural and natural resources and end protracted litigation. The landowner and certain members of the community have been embroiled in extended proceedings before the Board of Land and Natural Resources that have divided and split the community. The County's purchase of the property will end the dispute, and save important cultural sites, preserve shoreline access for fishing and surfing, and protect the near shore marine environment just south of the Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District (which boasts over 106 marine species, many of which are species of concern).

Although I cannot be present for the hearing on December 8-9, 2009, I remain in strong support of the project, and thank you for your service on the Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Hoffmann", written over a horizontal line.

Councilmember Pete Hoffmann

PH/mkh